

Working for Mount Vernon

Congressman **Eliot Engel** Reports



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Over \$4.14 Million In Federal Funds Obtained for Mount Vernon in 2005

Since the beginning of the year, Congressman Eliot Engel obtained over \$4.14 million in Federal funds and grants for the City of Mount Vernon.

The Federal funds and grants include over \$300,000 to improve housing and \$43,749 to combat drug abuse. WestHELP's program in Mount Vernon received \$30,450 for its Employment Resource Center and \$29,123 for the Entrepreneurial Training Program. The City received \$171,675 for its employment initiative program.

The Mount Vernon Fire Department received \$284,000 for new fire fighting vehicles. The City of Mount Vernon received \$2 million in economic development/transportation funds that will be used to cover the railroad tracks by the Mount Vernon East station.

In addition to the funds obtained directly for Mount Vernon, Westchester County obtained \$3.135 million for the Westchester County-Bee Line bus replacement program.

"One of the most important things that I can do is to work hard to bring Federal funds back from Washington," Congressman Eliot Engel stated. "The millions of dollars I worked to secure over the years are helping to make Mount Vernon a better, safer place in which to live."

Congressman Eliot Engel assisting seniors review information on the complexities of the new Medicare Part D prescription drug program at a November 22nd Mount Vernon "Town Hall" meeting. At the meeting experts from the Social Security Administration and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services answered questions and distributed information.

Taking Action to Help Save a Life

Every day Congressman Engel's community offices work to solve problems. In October they helped save a life.

Twenty-two year old Star Dixon of Mount Vernon was battling end-stage renal disease and needed a kidney transplant to survive. She had a perfect match, her older brother Timothy who is in the Navy.

One would imagine that the Navy would understand and extend his leave past October 6th because the operation was scheduled for October 12th. His Navy superiors refused to extend Timothy's leave and ordered him to Japan on October 7th.

He then contacted Will Dubose, the Director of Mount Vernon's Veterans Service Agency, for help. Dubose contacted Mayor Ernest Davis, who then called Congressman Eliot Engel.

Congressman Engel immediately contacted the Navy and the problem was resolved. Timothy Dixon's leave was extended. "When the Navy learned the facts, they quickly approved the extension," Engel stated.

"If not for Engel's quick response, Star might not be alive today," said Mayor Ernest Davis when he joined Star and Timothy Dixon and their mother at Congressman Engel's Mount Vernon office to thank those who made it possible for Timothy to donate his kidney in time to save his sister's life.

Health Care Legislation

Congressman Engel sponsored three important pieces of legislation to provide health insurance to millions of uninsured New Yorkers.

The Small Business Health Insurance Promotion Act would create a 50% tax credit to help small businesses and the self-employed with the costs of health coverage.

The FamilyCare Act would lower costs and expand affordable coverage for working parents by making the parents of children eligible for Medicaid and the State Children's Health Insurance Program also eligible for coverage.

And the Medicare Early Access Act would allow people between the 55 and 64 to purchase Medicare.

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